



Panorama residents scramble to find COVID vaccines

While some Panorama residents have been fortunate to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, many others are still searching diligently for a place to get it, or at least sign up on a waiting list. If you're 65 years old, you fall in the 1B category and are immediately eligible to receive the vaccine. The trick is finding someone to administer it to you.

We've been reading about the megasite at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, which is a partnership between Lonestar Family Health Center and the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management. They gave out 2,000 doses the week of January 20 and plan to do more as additional vaccine shipments are received.

You are encouraged to reserve an appointment time at their website, www.lonestarvaccine.com. The problem is, they only accept registrations when they have vaccine on hand, and the first shipment was gone in 18 minutes. Like most of the COVID provider sites, you have to check back regularly (I.e. daily) and hope to get lucky when the site is updated.

The Montgomery County Public Health District is now accepting appointment requests at www.mcphd-tx.org. Again, this is one that should be checked

frequently. If you're a Facebook person, you should "like" their page at www.facebook.com/mctxpublichealth because they post updates daily, not only on their vaccine program but other providers in the area.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has two resources of interest on their website: www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus. One is a list of county "vaccination hub providers" and the other is a map showing where these providers are located. You can find links to both of these resources in the third section of their home page (How do I get one?).

The map is most helpful because you can manipulate it to show all possible locations in our area. Type 77304 in the bar at the upper right and you'll see dots for the COVID vaccine sites closest to Panorama. When you click on each dot, it describes the provider, including doses shipped and doses available. Right now, doses available is usually zero, but this will change in the coming weeks as more vaccine enters the marketplace.

Eventually pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens and Walmart will be set up to administer the vaccine. This may take a little time, but it is definitely coming. The good



Online resources

Lonestar Family Health Center
www.lonestarvaccine.com

Montgomery County Public Health District
www.mcphd-tx.org

Texas Department of State Health Services
www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

news is, the vaccine distribution program is finally starting to get organized and providers are stepping forward with new information about how to get the vaccine. As they say, "Help is on the way!"

Falconry is not for people in a hurry

Panorama resident Carlos Madruga has been practicing the lost art of falconry for 20 years, having become intrigued as a young boy after watching the Disney film "My Side Of The Mountain." He didn't realize at the time how complicated a hobby it is, and how much education he would need to be successful.

To practice falconry in Texas you must be licensed by the Texas Department of Fish and Wildlife, and that requires a sponsor and two years as an apprentice. Birds of prey are protected animals, and

can only be trapped for training in the fall. There are strict guidelines about which birds can be trapped and how they are housed and fed.

Carlos says Red Tail hawks and Harris hawks are best in South Texas. The one shown in the picture was captured with permission on the famous King Ranch near Kingsville. These birds can be trained to hunt small ground animals such as rabbits and squirrels, as well as "pest" birds in urban areas.

If you would like to know more about



this fascinating hobby, give Carlos a call at 936-523-0135. He will be glad to share some of his knowledge and experience.

ON THE TEE BOX *With Ruthie McGrath*

I was asked to write an article about the use and operation of golf carts so I got a copy of Ordinance No. 2015-397 from City Hall and will refer to so that all owners of golf carts can be reminded of their obligations about cart ownership.

All golf carts that are operated on city streets for golfing or personal use must be registered with the City Secretary or the Golf Shop showing that they are entitled to use their cart on city streets or on the course, and the permit decal given must be placed on the driver's side of the cart and be visible at all times.

The operator or someone in the cart must have a valid state driver's license and should comply with the "Rules of the Road" and operate in daylight hours unless the cart has the proper lights.

Below are some reminders of violations that are seen around the city. Many of you may have come into contact with violations like these and narrowly escaped a dangerous situation or wreck. I am putting these in bullet points and sometimes in incomplete sentences to save space.

- Cart users need to understand that when they drive on the public streets the cars have the right of way. Always look for cars, especially when crossing the street to the next hole or coming out of the parking lots, or even your own homes. It is especially important around the club house. Many car drivers don't notice you or

feel they need to stop for you.

- If driving down the street and a car is behind you, slow down, wave them around you or pull over and let them by. Better to be safe than create a potential accident.
- Parents...IF you do let your children take the wheel, teach them proper etiquette, how to be safe and the rules of driving.
- On the course etiquette, 90 degree rule is always in force, take care of our golf course as it is the best we have ever had. Cart Path Only means stay on the cart path. All Par 3 holes are cart path only, no exceptions.
- Pay attention to the signs showing the cart must return to the cart path and if not there do not go closer than 30 yards in from of the green and that means no one is to go to the far side of or behind the greens.
- If you have a handicap flag, it does not mean you are excluded from any rules.
- Be courteous to ALL golfers including those on holes next to you.
- People not playing golf should not be on the course for safety reasons.
- If anyone needs to inquire about proper golf cart etiquette or rules, or report abuse of the rules they should visit with the Marshalls, Starters or Head Marshall, Joe Watson. Please respect these people as their job is to keep everyone safe so all can enjoy their day on the course.

PLA Feb 5 program features area singer

The Panorama Ladies Association will be showcasing the acclaimed Conroe singer Emily Eenigenburg on Friday, February 5 with a selection of secular and Christian music for your enjoyment. Emily will also talk about the influences that music has had on her life. After graduating from Houston Baptist University, she traveled extensively with Life Action Ministry through more than a dozen states in the east and Midwest areas of the U.S. Emily has also sung with the Houston Grand Opera.



For more information, call PLA president Carolyn Backen at 936-856-5401. Check in is at 10:30, followed by the program at 11:00 and lunch at noon.

A fresh start for the sewage plant

For the last 15 or so years, our guests on the golf course and residents near the sewage treatment plant on League Line have experienced noxious odors emanating from the plant. Many years ago, it became necessary to remove the cover from the "wet well" that collects waste from throughout the city.

The caustic nature of the waste was causing the cement liner of the "wet well" to deteriorate. By removing the cover, the causticity was reduced and the damage lessened. Unfortunately, being left open to the air resulted in noxious odors from time to time. A lift station, which consists of two large self-priming centrifugal pumps, is used to move the waste from the "wet well" for treatment. The city went out for bids recently to replace the lift station pumps and coat the well liner.

As a result, with the renovations, we will once again be able to cover the "wet well" and keep the noxious odors under wraps. Sweet news, don't you think?

Yard of the Month

Gwen and Sidney Woods
29 Palmetto Place

